

Message Text

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43

ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

AID-05 /026 W

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R 081501Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6119

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ETRD, PFOR, CT, US

SUBJECT: GOCAR REQUEST FOR EX-IM CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF AMBULANCES

1. BASED ON EMBASSY UNDERSTANDING THAT GOCAR WAS IN PROCESS OF REQUESTING EX-IM LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF AMBULANCES, ON AUGUST 30 EMBOFF MET WITH DIRGEN OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO REVIEW COMPOSITION OF MINISTRY'S MOTOR POOL AND REVERIFIED THE APPALLING LACK OF VEHICLES, ESPECIALLY, AMBULANCES. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT NEED FOR THESE VEHICLES EXISTS AND THAT THEY WILL BE PUT TO GOOD USE AND HAVE A MAXIMUM IMPACT ON THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. AMBULANCES WILL BE STATIONED IN MAJOR URBAN CENTERS AND USED TO TRANSPORT PATIENTS FROM RURAL AREAS TO THOSE HOSPITALS. AMBULANCES WILL ALSO BE USED OCCASIONALLY TO EVACUATE CRITICALLY ILL PERSONS TO THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL IN BANGUI.

AMBULANCE SALE IN LINE WITH EMBASSY AND USG EMPHASIS ON SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES IN CAR. SALE WOULD COMPLEMENT PROPOSED AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSN RURAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND SOON-TO-BE-IMPLEMENTED USAID-PC WELLS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, AS WELL AS CONTINUING EMBASSY SELF-HELP EFFORTS IN HEALTH SECTOR.

3. DIRGEN OF PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMED EMBOFF THAT MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAD SENT REQUEST FOR VEHICLES TO MINISTER OF FINANCE IN MARCH 1975. HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT ACTUAL LOAN APPLICATION

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HAD BEEN MADE TO EX-IM FOR THESE VEHICLES. DIRGEN UNDERSTANDS

THAT DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE ON A FINANCIAL RATHER THAN A SOCIAL BASIS, BUT BELIEVES THAT GOCAR CERTAINLY HAS ABILITY TO REPAY SUCH A SMALL LOAN. AS CURRENT MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ZANE-FE TOUAM-BONA ONLY TOOK OVER HEALTH PORTFOLIO IN JUNE, 1975, EXTENT TO WHICH HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE IS INVOLVED IS NOT CLEAR. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDETERMINE EXTENT OF NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD THE LOAN BE REFUSED.

4. THROUGH RECENT PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH PRESIDENT BOKASSA, EMBASSY HAS IMPRESSION THAT US-CAR BILATERAL RELATIONS CURRENTLY MAY BE ON UPBEAT, THEREFORE, ANY REVERSAL SUCH AS EX-IM LOAN REFUSAL COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONS AND ENDANGER US HEALTH PROJECTS.
SWING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDIT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGUI01271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750310-0215
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750972/aaaacimu.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION XMB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOCAR REQUEST FOR EX-IM CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF AMBULANCES
TAGS: EINV, ETRD, PFOR, CT, US, XMB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006